

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1899.

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ALL REPORT HEAVY SALES

Omaha Merchants Experience a Season of More Than Usual Prosperity.

PRESENT MONTH IS A RECORD-BREAKER

People Have More Money Than Herebefore, Buy Much More Freely and Seldom Quibble Over Prices.

Those who have watched the trend of business affairs in Omaha during the last twelve months have frequently and freely expressed the opinion that the year 1899 would mark an important epoch in the commercial interests of the city.

The early fall business in all lines was good, and as winter drew on it increased rapidly in volume, scores of the houses being compelled to double their forces in order to handle the trade.

Order to ascertain what the merchants have been doing a large number of them have been interviewed, and the best idea of their prosperity and the general prosperity now prevailing over the country can be gained by the statements that follow:

C. C. Holden, Thompson, Bellows & Co., Dry Goods—The last year has been the best we have experienced since we located in Omaha.

Mrs. J. Benson, Dry Goods—I figure that our trade during the last year has been much better than ever before.

H. Hardy of the Hardware—Figure on a 23-1/2 per cent increase in trade as compared with 1898, and I thought that the big year.

T. J. Rogers of Milton Rogers & Sons, Hardware—Our business has been all we could desire.

Holiday & Mahwinney, Jewelers—We have had a fine trade, not only during the holiday season, but throughout the entire fall.

S. Gambis, Manager of the Continental Clothing House—The business has been far ahead of last year, and that comes pretty close to telling the whole story.

B. McConnell of Sherman & McConnell, Druggists—The holiday season has been a record-breaker.

Joseph P. Prener, Jeweler—Trade has been far ahead of last year.

H. J. Penford of the Aloe & Penford Co.—Trade has been the best in many years.

Kelly, Stiger & Co., Dry Goods—We have sold a better grade of goods than ever before.

R. S. Wilcox, Manager for Browning, King & Co.—Clothing trade in the past year.

William Hayden of Hayden Bros., General Merchandise—I cannot say what per cent our business has increased during the past year.

O. K. Scofield, Clocks and Lamps—Purchasing Goods—We never had a better trade than during the last fall.

Nebraska Clothing Company—Trade started in much earlier than last year.

A. Hospe, Pianos and Music—Biggest trade in the history of our business.

C. H. Brantner, Hats—We have been rushed to death and have sold more goods during the last ten days than during any previous period of the same length of time.

C. H. Shaeffer, the Druggist—Business was never better than right at this time.

C. W. Burton, Boston, Stone—Hardware trade was a little slow in starting.

W. R. Bennett—Everything is pushing and it is about all that we can do to keep up with orders.

T. B. Cartwright, Shoe Company—During the year the business has been the best our house has ever had.

take care of the trade. People are buying as they never bought before.

Manager Shank of the Dewey & Stone Furniture Company—The whole situation may be sized up in one word, "Good."

Henry Copley, Jeweler—Business is much better than last year, especially in solid goods.

Manager Stall of the Megeath Stationery Company—The trade of former years.

General Wallace's Studio—The most beautiful artist's studio in the world has just been completed.

Robert Rosenzweig of the Drexel Shoe Company—Our trade has been fully up to expectations.

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WHERE CONAN DOYLE LIVES

Home and Workshop of the Creator of "Sherlock Holmes."

STORIES OF HIS PROWESS IN ATHLETICS

Where the Noted Writer Obtained His Impressions and Literary Material—Great Detective in Fair Play.

The presentation of "Sherlock Holmes" as a play has revived the interest in Dr. Conan Doyle's remarkable career.

Dr. Doyle recently in his English home. He is so far removed from civilization as is Kipling in his home at Rottlingham.

Dr. Doyle's workshop is a roomy study, with a desk, a chair, and a bookshelf.

"Undershaw" is very much of today—like its hero. It cannot boast of anything historical, as it was built two years ago.

The exterior is that of the modern villa so popular in Surrey.

Another of the Haslemere colony, living next door to Dr. Doyle.

The building is heated by a furnace in the basement, which is reached by a flight of stairs.

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ROTHERY UNBOSOMS HIMSELF

President of the G. M. Hitchcock Club is Deeply Disappointed.

FEELS ALSO KEEN STING OF INGRATITUDE

Has Trained Everything from a Heavyweight Boxer to a Bull Pup and Always Dies Game Without Hollering.

Next to G. M. Hitchcock himself, the "confusionist" most disappointed and who feels most keenly the sting of ingratitude is the appointment of Senator Allen as Ed Rothery of this city, who prided himself with the honor of being the president of the G. M. Hitchcock club.

Ed Rothery, who has trained and prepared everything for a prize fight from a heavyweight pugilist down to a ten-pound bullterrier, has not yet fully recovered from the sting of the disgrace occasioned by the bursting of the senatorial boom of his favorite, whose detonation shook the earth while gladiator of the magic circle fairly off his pedals.

It was at the ringside when Corbett lawed, that the plume of Ed Rothery, said President Rothery the other day, trying to drown his sorrow with a number of convivial spirits in his saloon in the Third ward.

"I had my money on Sullivan, and a big lump of it, too, and when I saw him go down in defeat I was all broke up. The big fellow was a slugger and a fighter from 'way back, and I felt as if I had been knocked out myself when his colors were lowered. But Hitchcock's defeat hit me just as hard, not exactly in pocket, but it made me feel as if I was a sucker, and I wish some one had shot one into my own solar plexus."

"Our man should have got the decision, 'cause Allen fouled him in entering the ring. He should have stayed back and let a democrat have a show. I thought we had all framed up to vote for him, though it necessary we might have done a good deal more plugging up rosters and packing the bleachers. As president of the Hitchcock club I trained our man for a twenty-round go, but had to give some time to my saloon just to keep the constant company in circulation. I thought it was all one way, just like a prize bullterrier fighting an eight-ounce rat."

All the boys for Hitchcock.

"The boys who came into my place at any rate all shouted for Hitchcock; every one of them was for him, and I looked as if he couldn't lose. You don't think they were giving it to me straight? Oh, sure they were! A few drinks loosens a man's tongue and he'll tell his real sentiments then much easier than when he thinks some one's trying to put on a show. They were all for Hitchcock, first, last and all the time."

"But it is all over and I suppose no use crying. We've got to take our medicine game. But I tell you we pretty near wore the boys out. I had a number of boys and messengers. We thought we had had several times. It was only a chance how anyhow that knocked us out at the critical moment. It was like a thunderbolt, and between that and the oscillating language of the press, it was a pretty hard one on hands with their equilibrium and didn't turn up for several days. I'm only getting my own form now."

"Hitchcock oughtn't to have hollered, though. No dodgy game sport would do that only those monkey boys who are always on the only way to do is to pick yourself up and shake hands with the other fellow, no matter how hard you'd like to paste him."

"But I am still president of the G. M. Hitchcock club and don't you forget it. And the next time we put our man in the ring he'll be in the ring with all the catch weights and bare knuckles. If he don't it won't be my fault, because during my career in the ring and my experience with prize fighters, two-footed and four-footed, I've always kept grooming them until they won't even get on their feet. I should have thrown my support this time. I should have thrown it there are any more stings of ingratitude" running around here'll catch 'em and cut their claws before time's called."

NEW YORK LABOR STATISTICS.

Present Condition of Organized Labor in the Empire State.

The December bulletin issued by the bureau of labor statistics of New York state, showing the condition of organized labor in August and September, show a marked increase in membership of labor organization and a reduced percentage of idleness.

There were 1,329 labor unions in the state on September 30, 1899, as compared with 1,067 on the same day of 1898, and the membership increased from 171,067 to 259,129, which is the largest number yet recorded by the bureau.

During the quarter the number of members idle was 4,788, or 2.3 per cent of the membership, as compared with 5,734, or 5.7 per cent in 1898, and 6.5 per cent in 1897. A still larger decrease was manifested in the number unemployed at the end of the quarter, the aggregate number being only 9,599, or 4.7 per cent of the membership, as compared with 16,343 per cent at the end of September in 1898, and 18.8 per cent at the end of September in 1897.

Even so late as June 30 of the present year the percentage of idleness was 10.7. The diminished idleness is accompanied with increased earnings in most of the trades.

The movement for shortening the hours of labor in that state has of late made considerable progress. The effect of the eight-hour law of 1899 upon public employment, either direct or through the medium of the contract system, was described in the September bulletin. In the present issue appears an article on the movement for a Saturday half-holiday in New York city, where nearly 20,000 members of labor organizations have obtained the half holiday since last spring without a reduction of the weekly wages.

The trades thus successful were principally the carpenters, the electricians, the chair builders, cabinet workers, the painters, etc. The federal eight-hour law, enacted in 1892, has remained more or less of a dead letter, so far as a contract work was concerned, until this year. On the 21st of November in the United States district court at Baltimore a firm of contractors on the new naval academy buildings at Annapolis was fined \$500 for permitting one of their employes to work more than the statutory eight hours on July 2, 1899. The same firm was fined the nominal sum of \$100 for a technical violation of the law on another occasion. The precedent established in the decision of the Baltimore court promises to be of such importance as to warrant the publication of the federal eight-hour law in the Bulletin, along with a summary of the court's proceedings in the Carlin case.

The Bulletin also contains an account of the new movement initiated in Brouse county to bring the farmers within the ranks of trade unionism. Ten local unions had been formed up to the "Cattle Dealers" with an aggregate membership of about 300, a union label adopted and an international union organized, which sent delegates to the Detroit convention of the American Federation of Labor to seek affiliation with that body.

